

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Talk is cheap, lives expensive

Talk is cheap. Actions speak louder than words. Might makes right. You can come up with any number of adages to defend a cause. A prime example in the news lately is Israel. Earlier this month 35 Israelis were killed in an attack north of Tel Aviv. Palestinian guerrillas claimed responsibility for the killings. In a move openly described by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin as a press for vengeance, Israeli forces swept into Lebanon last week, wiping out Palestinian strongholds and gaining control of the southern portion of the country.

We do not presume at this point to argue the ideological differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The issue centers on these latest blood-trading confrontations and their effect on peace negotiations in the Mideast.

It's to be expected that tempers will flare due to the on-again off-again nature of peace talks. And a country does have its pride.

But as slowly as the talks were moving, they were better attempts at a settlement than these military shows of might could ever be. The Palestinian attack at Tel Aviv was criticized around the world as a "brutal act of terrorism." The Israeli assault is no less acceptable.

True enough, talk is cheap — compared to the price of war.

J.A.



## Busing and the black community

By MARK ELAM

The issue of the forced busing of school children has been a battleground between conservatives and liberals since and even prior to the Coleman report of 1966. The intent of this article, however, is not to simply rehash what many consider to be an ideological debate, but rather to examine one all-important question which has been too often muddled by the rhetoric of ideology. That is: Has busing achieved its stated purpose? It is time to consider whether or not busing has either advanced educational achievement or improved race relations.

One of the most convincing answers given to this question was presented on a recent edition of the PBS program Black Journal. For those who are unfamiliar with this program, it will suffice to say that it is a program run by blacks with the intention of discussing issues which affect the black community.

The program in question was entitled "Does Busing Work?" The host and executive producer, Tony Brown, began the show by reaffirming what has been stated many times before in the busing dispute, that being that the majority of Americans are opposed to busing. Black Journal presented a recent Harris poll showing that 81 percent of the American public is opposed to busing, 85-9 percent among whites and 51-38 percent among blacks. Fitting a Black Journal poll of 100 black leaders

against an Ebony magazine poll of 100 Most Influential Black Americans, it was concluded from the results (Ebony 93 percent favoring busing, Black Journal 58 percent opposed to busing) that there exists a silent black majority whose opposition to busing is not being heard.

### Reader's Forum

In its argument against busing, Black Journal points that the "U.S. Civil Rights Commission in a report costing over one million dollars cannot substantiate the success of busing..." They follow up this claim by drawing upon the results of a 10-year study of busing which was conducted in Riverside, Ca. The study, which was originally expected to document the success of busing, proved to provide somewhat different results. Instead of the expected findings of a rise in competence and ambition among minority children as a result of busing, they found that busing incurred different and sometimes detrimental effects. For example, a noted change occurred in minority children's attitudes; they were found to have experienced increased self-doubt as well as a substantial increase in anxiety. Ironically, the tests showed that lower-income

white children gained in self-esteem after the forced desegregation occurred. It was further concluded that children in each ethnic group became "more cliquish over the years and less accepting of those outside their own group."

As far as achievement was concerned, the tests showed that minority children did not gain in achievement "either absolutely or relative to national norms." Forced contact with white children failed to have a positive effect on either achievement or attitude, and it was further concluded that busing not only fails to improve interracial activities but serves to accelerate white flight.

Executive producer Brown states that those who have propagated busing and massive infusions of money as means of improving education must recognize the obvious failure of these devices. Brown stresses the need to recognize that improved teacher-student relationships coupled with a return to basic educational techniques are the means for achieving quality education of all.

In reference to the much proclaimed Coleman report, we are reminded that Coleman's data referred mainly to children attending schools in their own neighborhoods. Quoting from the California report, Brown claims it was arrogant on the part of those who favored busing to believe that blacks either want or need to mimic white lifestyles in order to achieve.

"It is really a legal treatise on the inherent inferiority of black people, black institutions, and institutions run by blacks."

Black Journal rejects what it calls a "system of pseudo-logic, in which all whites who do not agree with busing, as a solution to quality education, or who oppose busing are racist and whites who favor busing are the good guys."

In busing, just as in the cases of minimum wage, quotas and other instances of government intervention, it seems that the individuals who are hurt the worst are the very people modern liberals claim to be helping. It would seem that even the most simple-minded would have discovered by now that the education of children is a familial task, not a governmental one. It is time that these people reflect upon the unsuccessful policies they have pursued for years and apply some true sympathy along with a little common sense. If nothing more, they should at least adopt the more honest standard of Tony Brown and Black Journal. "It is not necessarily good or bad because it is black or white; it is good or bad because it does or does not work."

Mark Elam is a junior political science major and president of the campus chapter of Young Americans for Freedom. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only, and not necessarily those of this paper.

## Hitting the campaign pocketbook

By GENE BERNHARDT  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — If there is a single legislative issue that exceeds the Panama Canal in the minds of lawmakers, it has to be a bill in the House to cut back financing of congressional election campaigns.

The strong Republican feelings about the measure contrast with the public apathy that surrounds it. It's an inside political story that the GOP wishes was as prominent in the national mind as the canal controversy.

The bill reduces the current limits on contributions by a party to a candidate. It also reduces limits on contributions by political action committees to the parties.

So far, it's a party-line division of sentiment.

All 147 Republicans signed a letter opposing it. The Democratic Steering and

### Commentary

Policy Committee, a 24-member organization of the leadership and key zone "whips" from all section of the country, unanimously endorsed the bill.

Behind the bill, but not in it, is the issue of public financing of congressional elections, a proposal similar in theory to one in

law now for presidential elections.

More Democrats than Republicans want the public financing proposal, which led to the theory that the Democrats purposely made the campaign funding limits so onerous to Republicans that the GOP would cave in on a compromise and buy public financing.

Republicans, however, did not roll over as expected. They fought for public attention to their cause through a series of parliamentary moves that slowed the pace of work on even routine legislation on the House floor, stretching an expected two-hour session into six hours one day.

House GOP Leader John Rhodes and the Republican whip, Bob Michel, said the

bill threatened the survival of the Republican Party and went beyond normal political assaults by one party against another.

Democrats said it would affect their financing just as it would Republicans, but they justified the bill because Republicans had built a campaign war chest for the coming November congressional elections that is four times the level of the Democrat treasury.

The intensity of argument and promotion that each side brought to its stand on the issue has been rarely matched in any other legislative fight. But then the political security of the lawmakers was in danger and there are some things in Congress that take priority.

### Letters to the editor

## Ag in need thanks Ags who gave

Editor's note: The following is a thank you note from the Howard Gaddis family, San Antonio, who have been recipients of Aggie donations for the medical care of their young son, Trey. Howard Gaddis is a 1976 Texas A&M graduate.

Dear Friend & Fellow Aggies,  
We are sorry that we are unable to write a thank you note to each one of you that took the time to send your donation. We hope this letter will reflect our thanks and gratitude for your caring and sharing.

Our son is progressing very well. He is now seven months old and weighs 9.5 pounds. We did find out that he does have a severe hearing impairment. He does have a hearing aid now and we are praying that this will assist him. Please pray with us.

"Thanks" doesn't seem to say enough for all the generosity, inquisition, and prayers that we received from you. The donation meant a lot to us, but the letters meant so much more. It was a wonderful feeling to read your letter and know that we had so many friends who sincerely cared.

We did receive \$675.78 from the donations. We are using the donations for Trey's hearing equipment and his many doctor's visits.

We hope in the future that we can help you when you are in need.  
God Bless you always.  
— Howard, Tricia and Trey Gaddis

### TM again

Editor:  
It is obvious from Willis Hudson's letter about the "religious nature" of TM, that he has little knowledge of the technique involved. Yes, TM does have a religious origin and is a tool used by some eastern religions, but it is not a religion in itself.

For example, some western religions sing hymns in their ceremonies. Are these hymns a religion when sung outside of the church? It does not make sense to talk of hymns or TM as being a religion because without the religious belief these tools lose their religious meanings.

TM does not require a person to make any changes in their beliefs or lifestyle (ex-

cept setting aside 20 minutes twice a day to meditate). TM has not changed any of my beliefs in and about God. I do not know what beliefs are involved in Hinduism or any other eastern religion and they do not interest me in the least. I agree with Willis that TM "is not to any degree compatible with the truth of Christianity." And once again, TM is not a religion.

— George E. Sofka, '81  
President, International  
Meditation Society

### Good profs

Editor:  
When I transferred to A&M last fall, I expected large classes and little, if any, contact with my professors concerning assignments and the material they present. I am amazed at the individual attention I have received from my professors at the University. This may not be the case for many students, but my professors have been more than helpful to me. Some of them have gone so far as to have you call them at home if necessary.

Granted, if everyone called their professors at home this would eventually become a nuisance to them, but there are times when a student needs to get hold of a professor "right now" should he miss class or need some advice on an assignment. It is a good feeling to know that most professors at this University are concerned with their students and that help is available. I hope I continue to have the kind of professors I have had so far at A&M. It makes learning a lot more enjoyable.

— Mark Beatty, '79

### Slouch

by Jim Earle



"IF THEY EVER LEARN THAT WE'RE NOT TOO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT COMING BACK EITHER, NO ONE WOULD COME AFTER THE SPRING BREAK!"

# TOP OF THE NEWS

## CAMPUS

### Board payment due in nine days

The third installment board payment for the 1978 Spring Semester is due on March 30. The amount is \$143.05 for the 7-day Board Plan and \$128 for the 5-day Board Plan. To avoid penalty, pay now either at the Fiscal Office in the Richard Coke Building or the Cashier's Office in the main lobby of the Rudder Center.

### A&M libraries to hold sale

National Library Week will be observed April 2-8 by Texas A&M University Libraries with a series of public-participation events. Beginning at 10 a.m. April 3 at the University Library south entrance, a sale will include books, maps, posters, records and magazines. Dr. Harriette Andreadis, assistant professor of English, will present a program of animated films and discuss cinematic form on April 4 at 7:30 p.m. in University Library 226. Poetry and fiction readings are planned for April, along with the noon panel discussion, "The Role of the Research Library in Meeting Research, Teaching and Community Needs" in Room 226.

## STATE

### Radar detectors may be banned

The director of the Department of Public Safety, Colonel Wilson E. Speir, recommended Monday legislation banning the use of radar detectors used to circumvent speed limit laws in Texas. An increasing number of drivers are making use of them, he said in a speech to the annual conference of the Texas Safety Association in Dallas. Speir also suggested a mandatory 90-day license suspension for persons convicted of drunken driving. The present law calls for a one-year suspension.

### 'Clovis Man' evidence found

Two archeologists have found evidence of the existence of "Clovis man," the earliest known inhabitant of North America, on a farm near Winchester, northwest of La Grange. Dr. Joseph Wilson, a linguist at Rice University, first discovered surface artifacts on his farm. Later he was joined in excavating the area by Dr. Joel Shiner, an archeologist at Southern Methodist University. Some discoveries date 10,000 B.C. and the site shows signs of continuous occupation since that time.

### Railroad blamed in high utilities

The residents of San Antonio for the past five years have been forced to pay the highest utility rates in the nation because of an unreliable natural gas supplier, Burlington-Northern Railroad, said attorney general candidate Mark White Monday. The railroad has attempted to increase its rates by 50 percent for transporting coal to Texas he said while campaigning in San Antonio.

### Regulations inflate medical costs

Dr. Denton A. Cooley blamed government regulations for higher medical costs in the United States. The "real culprit has been federal regulation and the cost of compliance," Cooley said Sunday at a dedication ceremony at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver. The Texas Heart Institute in Houston is spending \$1.8 million to comply with regulations for Medicare and Medicaid, Cooley said. Private medical facilities provide cheaper and better care than government-controlled medicine, he contended. The cost of handling an open-heart surgery patient in government facilities in Holland is \$16,000, but costs only \$12,000, including transportation, if the patient is treated in Houston, Cooley said.

## NATION

### Flynt off critical list, improving

Hustler magazine owner Larry Flynt was removed from the critical list Monday at Atlanta's Emory University Hospital. A hospital spokesman said Flynt, 35, was in serious condition after he spent a stable night with continued pulmonary improvement and healing of his abdominal wounds. Flynt and his attorney, Gene Reeves, 47, were gunned down March 6 as they walked to the Gwinnett County Courthouse in Lawrenceville, Ga., during a break in Flynt's trial on obscenity charges. Flynt, paralyzed from the mid-thighs down, has undergone three operations since the shooting. His attorney, Reeves, remained hospitalized at Button Gwinnett Hospital.

## WORLD

### Red Brigades threaten Moro

Red Brigades ringleaders on trial in Turin, Italy for political terrorism stormed out of the courtroom in chains Monday after openly threatening kidnapped former Premier Aldo Moro, himself facing a "people's trial" at the hands of the defendants' comrades. The 61-year-old Moro, five-time premier, president of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, was seized by Red Brigades commandos in Rome Thursday. Investigators believe the kidnappers may demand an exchange of the Turin defendants for Moro after he has been sentenced.

## WEATHER

Mostly cloudy this morning becoming partly cloudy this afternoon. High today low 80s, low tonight mid-50s. High tomorrow low 80s. Winds from the south at 10-15 mph becoming northerly late today.

## THE BATTALION

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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